

December 29, 1949

Pioneer Business Man Dies at Mission Texas

Groton Community was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Fred C. Bowles, highly esteemed pioneer business man and auto dealer, who passed away Wednesday, Dec. 27, of a heart attack near Mission, Texas.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Frederick G. MacKenzie, at the Methodist church, at Groton, on December 24th, the anniversary of his 68th birthday. Music was furnished by members of the Methodist choir and Mrs. J. J. Warkentin of Aberdeen, with Mrs. F. G. MacKenzie at the organ. Pallbearers were: Emil Holtz, Robert Flehs, Sr., N. H. Berry, J. Warkentin, Vance E. Miller and L. H. Eske. Burial was in the Groton Union cemetery.

Fred C. Bowles was born to William and Mary Bowles in a sod hut on a farm southwest of Groton on Dec. 24, 1881. It was on this same farm that he spent the early years of his life. He received a degree in engineering from South Dakota State College in 1907.

Sept. 25, 1909, he was united in marriage with Edythe M. Hubbard of Oshtemo, Wis. They remained on the farm until March, 1911 at which time they moved to Groton and started an automobile agency and repair shop, which burned in July, 1911. He was able to go threshing and earn enough to start over again, this time on "pokey row," where he stayed until 1913, when he built the building now occupied by Bowles & Sour. He remained in the automobile business for 32 years, until December, 1945, when he retired from active business, but remained occupied with his farm operations and custom combining during the summer months. He was a life-long member of the Methodist church and active in civic affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowles spent the past winters at Mission, Texas.

He departed is survived by his wife, Edythe M., and four children, Dale Sour (Janet), Groton; Don E. Bowles, Webster, S. D.; Mrs. O. Tjomsland (Virginia), Corvallis, Ore.; Lynn B. Bowles, Aberdeen, S. D.; seven granddaughters, and two nephews, a twin brother, Frank, of Fremont, S. D., and Wesley, of this city.

He was preceded in death by his infant daughters.

Those attending the funeral from a distance were: Emil Heisel of Rockford, Wis.; Fay and Sterling Hubbard, Lehigh, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Lund, Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Routh, Dallas, S. D.; Mr. and Mrs. McLoughlin and daughters, Nel and Irene, of Mitchell, S. D.; Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Sour, Havt, S. D., and Mr. and A. Brooks, of Mission, Texas.